Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

News

VOLUME 18, NO. 3 MAY 1989

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

Montana State Library
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Librarians from Montana State University demonstrate CatLink Remote Access On-Line Catalog at the Montana Library Association Conference in Billings. CatLink provides remote access to MSU holdings via modem.

Commission takes Action on LSCA Grants

The Montana State Library Commission held their April 29 meeting in Billings on the last day of the 1989 Montana Library Association Conference. The Commission approved 1990 Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant proposals, heard a progress report on several currently active grant projects, and heard a legislative report about the progress of House Bill 193, the state aid for public libraries bill.

Final action was taken by the commission to award LSCA Title II construction matching grants to two libraries, $153,635 to the Lewistown City Library to build a library addition and $647 to the John Gregory Public Library in Whitehall for minor remodeling.

Other LSCA grants approved include the following:

- $20,000 for planning Montana's part in the White House Conference tentatively scheduled for September 1991 and for a statewide preconference. The White House Conference has been mandated by the United States Congress to " develop recommendations for the further improvement of the library and information services of the Nation. and their use by the public...."
- $10,000 scholarship for a Montana resident to attend a graduate program in library science. **(See story page 2)**
- $6,200 to equip recording booth at the Montana State Prison with recording equipment so that the prisoners can record more Montana-related books for the blind and physically handicapped.
- $100,000 to pay for a part of the WLN founders' fee or for conversion to an alternate bibliographic utility.

The Commission also heard a report on the progress of current

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Montana Library Events

	June
13	**Federation Coordinators' Meeting - Helena**
14	**State Library Commission Meeting - Helena**
19 - 22	**Reference Skills Workshop - Helena**
24 - 30	**ALA Conference - Dallas**
	July
20	**MLA Cont. Ed. Committee Meeting - Bozeman**
21	**MLA Exec. Board Meeting - Bozeman**
27	**MT Library Services Advisory Council - Helena**

Keenan Reads to Children

One of the newest State Library Commissioners is becoming as well known to children as she already is to adults in the state. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Nancy Keenan has been reading to school children at public library story hours and on *Pea Green Boat*, a children's radio program produced and hosted by Missoula Public Library trustee, Marcia Dunn.
Keenan guest-hosted story hours at the Helena and the Butte public libraries.

Governor Reduces HB 193

On Monday, May 15, Governor Stan Stephens signed portions of HB 193, reducing the original request for state appropriation to public libraries to $566,000 for the biennium.

Stephens approved $400,000 for interlibrary loan reimbursement and $166,000 for federation support. He vetoed funding for a statewide library card and for outright grants to libraries.

HB 193 originally requested $3,000,000 in state aid for public libraries. The House passed the bill, the Senate cut it in half before passing it. The Governor's approval of $566,000 reduced the original request by 81%.

New Books at the State Library

Montana State Library continues to acquire new books in the field of library science. Librarians or others interested in borrowing the following books should contact the State Library's interlibrary loans department at 1515 E. 6th, Helena, MT, 59620 or call 444-3004. Please include call numbers with requests.

Improving Written Communication in Libraries by Jana and Larry Bradley (025.1 BRADLEY) includes clearly stated, thorough instructions for writing policies, annual reports and journal articles, as well as the more mundane letters and memos. The book, written by a librarian/editor and her English professor husband is practical for persons who are novices in writing library-related communications and for experienced writers, too.

Library Media Center Programs for Middle Schools by Jane Bandy Smith (027.8223 SMITH) focuses on the 10 to fourteen year-old age group and their special needs in library media centers. Chapter titles include "Planning the Library Media Program" to the more subjective, "Supporting Human Development." The book includes a comprehensive form for evaluating library media programs.

If You Want to Evaluate Your Library... by F.W. Lancaster (025.5 LANCAST) discusses different methods for librarians to use in evaluating factors such as the quality of reference services, catalog use and shelf availability, and others. The book gives practical advice for librarians in all types and sizes of libraries.

Non-Tax Sources of Revenue for Public Libraries by the ALA Office for Research (027.473 NON TAX) is a response to a need recognized by the American Library Association's Office for Research for data on where libraries throughout the country are finding revenue sources outside of public funds. The book is a statistical report of surveys and includes a bibliography on sources of non-tax revenue for public libraries.

Big Sky Telegraph Helps Rural Teachers and Students

Big Sky Telegraph and Western Montana College are offering a service to rural teachers who need information or resources not readily available in their communities. Ann Eifert and David Olson of the Western Montana College Library and Big Sky Telegraph announced the new service to assist teachers with acquiring current information for a science lesson, materials to supplement a student's report, or advanced materials for a gifted student, for example.

Big Sky Telegraph is a computer network which can be accessed

(See Big Sky pg. 4)

Library School Scholarship will be Offered to Montanans

The Montana State Library Commission has approved an LSCA grant to provide a $10,000 scholarship toward a degree in library science to a Montana resident who is working or who has worked in a library in the state. The recipient will be required to return to Montana after receiving his or her master's degree, to work in a public or in an institutional library.

The application will be available in October of 1989. Interested persons should contact Sheila Cates at the State Library 1515 East 6th, Helena, 59620, 444-5352.

Staff Changes in State Stay Active

There have recently been several personnel changes and additions in the Montana library community.

The State Library Commission has announced that Nancy Keenan, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Joanne Lerud, Director of the Montana College of Mineral Science and Technology Library will serve on the Commission.

Changes in public libraries include the appointment of a new Director of the Parmly Billings Library in Billings. Ricky Johnson, formerly Director of Public Library Development at the Virginia State Library replaced Ellen Newberg who left in January to become Kitsap Regional Librarian in Bremerton, Washington. Johnson will begin work in Billings on July 14.

The Bitterroot Public Library's Board of Trustees has announced that they have hired a new part time director, Everett Brownell, to oversee daily operations, to enhance currently-offered library services and to develop new services and technologies for the library.

Peggy McElfish resigned as Director of the Miles City Public Library. She has accepted a position at the Lewistown Public Library in Idaho. Delores Drennan will act as director until McElfish is replaced.

Marilyn LeBlond, Sidney Public Library Director, has accepted the position of Director of the Butte/Silver Bow Public Library.

Carlene Barnett, Director of the Polson Public Library has resigned in order to work toward a Master of Library Science degree at the University of Washington. Barnett's resignation is official as of May 31.

The State Library is experiencing a loss, too.

Mary Bushing, Library Development Officer, accepted a position as Collection Development Officer at the Montana State University Libraries in Bozeman. She started work at MSU on May 15. During her employment at the State Library, Bushing has garnered a national reputation in the field of collection development.

Mary Bushing is one of the many Montana library staff in transition. (See story)

Young Readers Vote for Favorite Books

Wait Till Helen Comes by Mary D. Hahn, has been selected as the 1989 Young Readers' Choice Award (YRCA). Children in five northwestern states, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and two Canadian provinces, British Columbia and Alberta, have voted Hahn's ghost story as their favorite from a ballot of 15 titles.

Other titles receiving large numbers of votes were *Ferret in the Bedroom, Lizards in the Fridge* by Bill Wallace, *Return of the Indian* by Lynn Reid Banks and *On My Honor* by Marion D. Bauer.

Montana children cast 3,790 of the 49,975 total votes. The total continues to grow each year.

Officials expressed pleasure at the large number of votes cast, but they noted some continuing problems in the balloting procedure. They offer the following reminders:

1. Balloting results should be sent to the University of Washington library school; not to the Montana representative.

2. Number of votes cast for each books should be included when reporting results, as well as the total number of votes cast.

3. Persons wanting the following years ballot or a copy of the results must include a SASE with their requests.

4. Deadlines should be carefully noted and observed.

Librarians who would like more information about next year's YRCA should contact the Montana representative, Dale Alger, Roundup Central Elementary School, 600 2nd St. W., 59072. 323-1512.

Share Your Centennial Activities

The *Montana State Library News* would like to commemorate Centennial activities which are organized by libraries or in which libraries participate. Please send letters or press releases describing how your library is celebrating the Centennial. Black and white photographs are encouraged.

Readers of the newsletter are interested in other libraries' activities and it is hoped, too, that by recording the events of the year, there will be a permanent record of how Montana libraries celebrated the state's 100th birthday.

"Ready, Set, Read," is the 1989 CBC Book Week Theme.

(Big Sky cont. from 2)

with a modem. Teachers may use Big Sky to request information, books, magazines or to search the ERIC database for education journal articles.

There are also special files available for use in rural schools. Subject matter includes peace education, dinosaurs, the Montana Centennial, and Christmas plays. More files are planned, as well as topical bibliographies.

More detailed information about Big Sky Telegraph may be obtained by contacting David Olson or Ann Eifert at 683-7541 or Big Sky Telegraph, 683-7338 (voice) or 683-7680 (modem).

(Commission cont. from 1)

LSCA-funded projects.

- Four of the five schools in the school/public cooperation project have submitted plans for continuing to serve the public after the grant ends.
- There were over 70 applicants for the reference institute planned for June 19 - 23rd. 50 persons were accepted and others placed on a waiting list.
- Recon of the Last Copy Fiction pool is well underway. The pool comprises about 43,000 titles, is shared resource for all Montana residents and is housed in the Parmly Billings Public Library. The collection has its own WLN identification code - MtBil-F and materials may be borrowed through interlibrary loan.
- Cooperative collection development meetings began with representatives from eight federal depository libraries holding a meeting in March. They are working on a state plan for federal documents coordinated by Dennis Richards of the University of Montana. Academic and public library cooperative collection development representatives will meet in the next few months.

In other business the Commission heard a report on the 1989 legislative session, on LSCA Oversight hearings in Washington, D.C. and Kalispell and the State Library's third quarter financial report.

Montana State Library Commission

Mary Hudspeth, *Chair*
Libby

Dr. Henry McClernan, *Vice Chair*
Butte

C.E. Abramson
Missoula

Nancy Keenan
Helena

Martha B. Davis
Dillon

Joanne Lerud
Butte

Marie Thompson
Billings

Commissioners' addresses are in the *Montana Library Directory*

Richard T. Miller, Jr., *State Librarian*

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